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## **Reports**

### **Item#1**

Can ASEAN Respond to the Chinese Challenge? YaleGlobal. Carlyle A. Thayer. March 18, 2014.

China has twice as much territory and population than the combined 10 member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, not to mention three times the GDP and four times the military spending. China increasingly pushes its weight in the region, most recently by criticizing Malaysian leadership in the search for missing flight MH307. Control of the South China Sea is another area of

contention. With ASEAN nations set to resume consultations on the sea, Thayer of the Australian Defence Force Academy, analyzes the challenges: China continues to alter the status quo through unilateral actions, while ASEAN claimant nations fail to unify on process for pressing claims. The third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea established exclusive economic zones stretching 200 nautical miles out from shore for nations to control resources. Self-restraint should be the axiom for negotiations, including this week's meeting in Singapore, but progress toward agreement has been slow. Failure by ASEAN states to speak out as one could erode their sovereignty, respect and security.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/can-asean-respond-chinese-challenge> [HTML format, various pages].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/putin%E2%80%99s-dangerous-game> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#2

Why Putin Doesn't Care About Sanctions. YaleGlobal. David R. Cameron. March 25, 2014.

Europe's advance on former Soviet satellite states unnerved Russia. After unrest in Ukraine and deposition of the president, Russia moved to annex Crimea, which in turn may "drive Ukraine into the arms of the EU and give NATO a new raison d'être," explains David R. Cameron. "Crimea in the hands of a hostile Ukraine would threaten Russia's hold on its base for the Black Sea Fleet at Sevastopol, the navy's only warm-water port and one that is strategically located close to the Mediterranean and the Middle East." From a Russian point of view, those now in control of Kiev could cancel the lease for the Sevastopol base. Annexation of Crimea took care of that key concern, but not Ukraine's movement toward membership in the European Union or possible alliance with NATO. Cameron concludes that pursuit of closer ties with NATO by Ukraine could "prompt a military response far exceeding the scope and impact of the Crimean takeover."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/why-putin-doesn%E2%80%99t-care-about-sanctions> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#3

The Next Round in Gaza. International Crisis Group. March 25, 2014.

With Hamas's fortunes on the decline and Gaza suffering its worst isolation and economic constriction in years, it is only a matter of time until a flare-up with Israel escalates into a major conflagration - unless the two reach a modest understanding to extend a fragile quiet, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/israel-palestine/149-the-next-round-in-gaza.aspx> Summary [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/Israel%20Palestine/149-the-next-round-in-gaza.pdf> [PDF format, 31 pages, 1.41 MB].

#### Item#4

Defying the Taliban, Afghans Head to the Polls. YaleGlobal. Marc Grossman. March 20, 2014.

Despite threats from the Taliban, as evidenced on March 20, in Jalalabad and impending withdrawal of international forces, Afghans head to the polls to elect a new president April 5. But there is reason for hope as "Afghanistan is not the same country it was in 2001, and Afghans seem ready to fight for what they have achieved at such great cost," argues Marc Grossman. While the country still faces challenges including corruption and poverty, it has also made great strides, with more children enrolled in schools, annual growth in GDP of about 9 percent, improved services and transportation, more businesses and global connections, as well as a military force determined to defeat terrorism. Grossman argues that a successful election and peaceful transfer of power could unify Afghans, discourage the Taliban and lead to the nation signing a Bilateral Security Agreement with the United States. He urges ongoing economic development along with international support and patience for development of regional connections, prosperity and security for Afghanistan and neighbors like Pakistan.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/defying-taliban-afghans-head-polls> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#5

U.N. Human Rights Experts: Determinants of Influence. Brookings Institution. Marc Limone and Ted Piccone. March 19, 2014.

The United Nations' independent human rights experts - known as the "special procedures" - are considered by many to be the crown jewel of the international human rights system. Since their establishment in 1967, they have grown into one of the international community's most important tools for promoting and protecting human rights. Today, there are almost fifty separate special procedure mandates covering a wide-range of thematic and country-specific issues, with more in the pipeline. Ted Piccone and Marc Limon evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the special procedure system, identify the structural determinants that drive their effectiveness, explore why past systemic reform has failed and make recommendations to relevant stakeholders to strengthen the system as it continues to grow.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2014/03/19%20un%20human%20rights%20experts%20evaluation%20piccone/un%20human%20rights%20experts%20evaluation%20piccone.pdf>  
[PDF format, 25 pages, 1.9 MB]

#### Item#6

Libya After Qaddafi: Lessons and Implications for the Future. RAND Corporation. Christopher S. Chivvis and Jeffrey Martini. March 17, 2014.

The international community's limited approach to post-conflict stabilization of Libya has left the nation struggling and on the brink of civil war. The essential tasks of establishing security, building political and administrative institutions, and restarting the economy were left almost entirely up to Libya's new leaders, according to the authors. No international forces were deployed to keep the peace, in contrast with NATO interventions in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research\\_reports/RR500/RR577/RAND\\_RR577.sum.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR500/RR577/RAND_RR577.sum.pdf)  
Summary [PDF format, 10 pages, 0.1 MB].

[http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research\\_reports/RR500/RR577/RAND\\_RR577.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR500/RR577/RAND_RR577.pdf) Full  
Text [PDF format, 119 pages, 1.6 MB].

#### Item#7

Financing the U.S. Trade Deficit. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. James K. Jackson. March 24, 2014.

The U.S. merchandise trade deficit is a part of the overall U.S. balance of payments, a summary statement of all economic transactions between the residents of the United States and the rest of the world, during a given period of time. Some Members of Congress and other observers have grown concerned over the magnitude of the U.S. merchandise trade deficit and the associated increase in U.S. dollar-denominated assets owned by foreigners. International trade recovered from the global financial crisis of 2008-2009 and the subsequent slowdown in global economic activity that reduced global trade flows and, consequently, reduced the size of the U.S. trade deficit. Now, however, U.S. exporters face new challenges with economies in Europe and Asia confronting increased risks of a second phase of slow growth. This report provides an overview of the U.S. balance of payments, an explanation of the broader role of capital flows in the U.S. economy, an explanation of how the country finances its trade deficit or a trade surplus, and the implications for Congress and the country of the large inflows of capital from abroad.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33274.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages, 352.66 KB].

#### Item#8

Emerging and Developing Nations Want Freedom on the Internet: Young Especially Opposed to Censorship. Pew Research Global Attitudes Project. March 19, 2014.

There is widespread opposition to internet censorship in emerging and developing nations. Majorities in 22 of 24 countries surveyed say it is important that people have access to the internet without government censorship. In 12 nations, at least seven-in-ten hold this view. Support for internet freedom is especially strong in countries where a large percentage of the population is online. And, in most of the countries polled, young people are particularly likely to consider internet freedom a priority.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2014/03/Pew-Research-Center-Global-Attitudes-Project-Internet-Censorship-Report-FINAL-March-19-2014-10-AM-ET.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages, 419.28 KB].

#### Item#9

Does Development Reduce Migration? Center for Global Development. Michael Clemens. March 10, 2014.

Basic economic theory suggests that as poor countries get richer, fewer people want to leave. This idea captivates policymakers in international aid and trade diplomacy. But a long research literature and recent data suggest something very different: Over the course of a "mobility transition", emigration typically rises with economic development, at least until poor countries reach upper-middle income level, like Algeria or El Salvador. Emigration typically falls only as countries become even richer. The data measures the mobility transition in every decade since 1960, surveys 45 years of research on why it happens, and suggests five questions for further study.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/does-development-reduce-migration\\_final\\_0.pdf](http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/does-development-reduce-migration_final_0.pdf) [PDF format, 52 pages, 1005.8 KB].

#### Item#10

2014 Brown Center Report on American Education: How Well Are American Students Learning?  
Brookings Institution. Tom Loveless. March 18, 2014.

This year's Brown Center Report on American Education represents the third installment of volume three and the 13th issue overall since the publication began in 2000. Three studies are presented. All three revisit a topic that has been investigated in a previous Brown Center Report. The topics warrant attention again because they are back in the public spotlight: I. Lessons from the PISA-Shanghai Controversy, II. Homework in America, and III. A Progress Report on the Common Core.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2014/03/18%20brown%20center%20report/2014%20brown%20center%20report\\_final.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2014/03/18%20brown%20center%20report/2014%20brown%20center%20report_final.pdf) [PDF format, 40 pages, 752 KB].